

In the Claims:

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image data processing method comprising the steps of:
 - storing image data of a screen into memory means;
 - reading the image data from the memory means in a unit of block consisting of a predetermined number of pixels and processing the read image data in the unit of block; and
 - when the image data is read in the unit of block consisting of the predetermined number of pixels and the read image data is short of the unit of block, compensating for a short amount thereof by adding thereto ~~using~~ image data ~~on~~ from an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means.
2. (Currently Amended) An image data processing method according to claim 1, wherein, when the short amount of the image data is an amount of a plurality of pixels, the short amount thereof is compensated for by repeatedly ~~using~~ adding image data on each of both end sides of the image only the number of times which is almost the same with respect to each other.
3. (Currently Amended) An image data processing apparatus comprising:
 - memory means for storing image data of a screen;
 - memory control means for writing the image data on the memory means and reading the written image data in a unit of block;
 - signal processing means for performing compression coding process on the image data read from the memory means in the unit of block by the memory control means; and
 - format setting means for supplying a setting signal indicative of a format used when the image data stored in the memory means is recorded on a recording medium, to the memory control means and the signal processing means,

wherein the memory control means reads the image data from the memory means in a unit of block consisting of a predetermined number of pixels according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means and, when the image data is short of the unit of block on reading the image data, the memory control means repeatedly reads image data on an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means so as to add the repeatedly read image data thereto to compensate for the short amount thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) An image data processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein, when the short amount of the image data is an amount of a plurality of pixels, the memory control means repeatedly reads image data on each of both end sides of an image only the number of times which is almost the same with respect to each other to compensate for the short amount thereof.

5. (Original) An image data processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the signal processing means performs compression coding process according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means, on the image data read from the memory means in a unit of block.

6. (Currently Amended) A digital still camera comprising:

means for converting an image signal obtained from an image pickup device into a digital image signal;

memory means for storing image data of a screen of the digital image signal;

memory control means for controlling the memory means so as to write image data on the memory means and read the written image data in a unit of block;

signal processing means for performing compression coding process on the image data read from the memory means in the unit of block by the memory control means; and

format setting means for supplying a setting signal indicative of a format used when the image data stored in the memory means is recorded on a recording medium, to the memory control means and the signal processing means,

wherein the memory control means reads the image data from the memory means in a unit of block consisting of a predetermined number of pixels according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means and, when the image data is short of the unit of block on reading the image data, the memory control means repeatedly reads image data on an end side of an image from the image data of a screen stored in the memory means so as to add the repeatedly read image data thereto to thereby solve a short amount of image data.

7. (Currently Amended) A digital still camera comprising:

means for converting an image signal obtained from an image pickup device into a digital image signal;

memory means for storing image data of at least a screen of the digital image signals;

memory control means for controlling the memory means so as to write image data on the memory means and read the written image data in a unit of block having the number of pixels smaller than that of the image data of a screen;

signal processing means for performing compression coding process on the image data read from the memory means in the unit of block by the memory control means; and

format setting means for supplying a setting signal indicative of a format used when the image data stored in the memory means is recorded on a recording medium, to the memory control means and the signal processing means,

wherein the memory control means reads the image data as a plurality of blocks from the memory means in the unit of block consisting of the predetermined number of pixels according to the format indicated by the setting signal from the format setting means and, with respect to a predetermined block among the plurality of blocks, the memory control means forms a block by repeatedly reading image data on an end side of an image from the image data of a screen stored in the memory means so as to add the repeatedly read image data thereto.